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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,959	11/25/2003	Ramesh Varadaraj	RV-0320	5901
7590	04/29/2005		EXAMINER:	
EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY P.O. Box 900 Annandale, NJ 08801-0900			HRUSKOCI, PETER A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/721,959	VARADARAJ, RAMESH	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter A. Hruskoci	1724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/12/04.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the specification on page 6 “penolformaldehyde” is erroneous, and should be changed to – phenolformaldehyde -.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 2 “the fracture frequency”, and in claim 3 “the elastic modulus”, “the fracture frequencies”, and “said determined fracture frequencies” lack clear antecedent basis.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 9-11, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Palmer 1,781,076. It is submitted that Palmer (see pages 1 and 2) disclose the method steps recited in the instant claims.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer. The claim differs from Palmer as applied above by reciting that the oscillatory mixing is

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conducted at a specific frequency. It is submitted that the specific frequency utilized to produce the oscillatory motion and separation of oil and water phases as disclosed in Palmer is considered patentably indistinguishable from the frequency recited in the instant claims. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the method of Palmer by utilizing the recited frequency, to aid in recovering the oil and water phases. The specific frequency utilized would have been an obvious matter of process optimization to one skilled in the art, depending on the specific emulsion treated and results desired, absent a sufficient showing of unexpected results.

Claims 4-8 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmer as above, and further in view of Manalastas et al.. The claims differ from Palmer as applied above by reciting steps for adding specific chemical demulsifiers to the emulsion, and separating the emulsion by centrifugation or electrostatic field, and by reciting that the emulsion contains specific dissolved salts and solids. Manalastas et al. disclose (see col. 1 line 11 through col. 5 line 53) that it is known in the art to utilize the recited demulsifiers to separate emulsions containing solids and salts by centrifugation or electrostatic field. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the method of Palmer by utilizing the recited adding and separating steps to treat the recited emulsions in view of the teachings of Manalastas et al., to aid in recovering the oil and water phases. The demulsifier and amount added, and specific field ranges utilized would have been an obvious matter of process optimization to one skilled in the art, depending on the specific emulsion treated and results desired, absent a sufficient showing of unexpected results.

Claims 3 properly written to overcome the above 35 USC 112 rejection, would be allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter A. Hruskoci whose telephone number is (571) 272-1160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Peter A. Hruskoci
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724